

## **Washington Hunger Distribution Center Workgroup Monthly Update Call Notes**

WEDNESDAY October 8, 2014

### **Washington Food Coalition – Julie Washburn**

This Friday, WFC will launch its initial Lunch 'n Learn Training Webinar. Friday's tutorial will serve as training for compliance with the new Healthier Food Options reporting. – Governor's Goal #4

**Login on Friday, October 10th at noon to join us**  
at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/132747493>

This month's Lunch 'n Learn Webinar will be presented by WFC's Membership Director, Trish Twomey and co-presented by Kim Eads, Program Manager for WSDA's Food Assistance Programs.

### **Save the Date for our upcoming monthly Lunch 'n Learn Webinars on the second Friday of the month from 12-1pm:**

#### **11/14/14 - Working With Farmers**

Presented by: Stephanie Kardos, WFC Harvest Capacity Developer

Co-Presented by: Benjamin Rasmus, Rotary First Harvest

#### **12/12/14 - Purchasing From Farmers**

Presented by: Stephanie Kardos, WFC Harvest Capacity Developer

Co-Presented by: Max Morange, Bellingham Food Bank

#### **1/9/15 - Volunteer Management**

Presented by: Stephanie Kardos, WFC Harvest Capacity Developer

Co-Presented by: Suzy McNeilly, Council on Aging & Human Services

Working on advocacy and other projects to maintain additional funds that were awarded last legislative session. (EFAP Request for continued funding of additional \$800,000/year in FY15-17 biennial budget)

Julie will be attending the Western Region Anti-Hunger Consortium in Nevada next week. Primarily an organization dedicated to Advocacy activities, but is also an excellent forum for sharing best practices related to hunger and food bank distribution.

### **Department of Agriculture (EFAP, TEFAP & CSFP) - James Scovel**

Have completed food orders for Jan-March entitlement

Items ordered for January 2015 to March 2015 at this time. Lots of protein items for both entitlement and bonus. Twice as many eggs as normal plus canned salmon, frozen chicken, and lentils.

#### **Entitlement**

- MILK 1% MILKFAT UHT 1500 BOX-12/32 FL OZ
- APPLESAUCE CAN-24/300
- PEARS CAN-24/300
- CORN WHOLE KERNEL CAN-24/300

- TOMATO DICED CAN-24/300
- TOMATO SAUCE CAN-24/300
- LENTILS DRY PKG 12/2 LB
- PEANUT BUTTER SMOOTH JAR-12/18 OZ
- EGGNOODLE 1/2 INCH WIDE PKG-12/1 LB
- CEREAL CORN FLKS 1080 PKG-12/18 OZ
- OATS ROLLED PKG-12/3 LB
- RICE US#2 LONG GRAIN PKG-24/2 LB
- EGGS 15 DOZEN
- WHOLE GRAIN SPAGHETTI PKG-12/2 LB

#### Bonus

- CHICKEN LEG QTR FRZ BAG-4/10 LB
- GRAPE CONCORD JUICE PLST BTL-8/64 FL OZ
- BLUEBERRY CULTIVATED FRZ CTN-12/2.5 LB
- SALMON PINK CAN-24/14.75 OZ

#### **Northwest Harvest – Mike Regis**

Starting to gear up for busy season. Continuing to do a lot of work related to food drives and other events.

Produce continues to be an area of focus, with carrots, plums, kiwi, pomegranates, squash, eggplant, onions, potatoes, apples and other items scheduled to come in over the next week.

Mike reiterated that NWH is purchasing whole chickens for holiday distribution.

#### On another note:

NWH was in Jefferson/Clallam County: Asked about big issues in that area. Issues of homelessness is a big challenge. Mike will be purchasing P-38 can openers @ \$0.35.

DB - What does homelessness look like in that area (vs. urban homelessness)?

Mike - People are camping out, some comments about drug users— many more requests for foods that are friendly for those who don't have access to cooking facilities. Bonnie Baker and her staff were also at the meeting for further clarification.

Julie – Of the two options (pop-tops & can-openers) available for serving the homeless population, is it better to focus on more funding to purchase expensive pop-tops or to purchase can openers?

Mike suggests that the pop-top option may be prohibitively expensive, but cautioned that while the can openers are an effective tool for the homeless population, they tend to be easily lost and need to be replaced multiple times.

Peny – Her personal experience is that homelessness is growing dramatically. It is starting to get really cold right now. Homeless populations tend to survive in groups of two or three (primarily for safety), and Peny thinks that the can openers are a better way to go.

### **Emergency Food Network – Helen McGovern and Kat**

In Pierce County there is a group of 80 agencies working together. Mental health is a really big issue there as well, and it impacts homelessness. 20 year old organization. Started by Jeannie Darnell,

Beautiful new coolers – 100% growth in capacity for fresh and frozen food has been really helpful. Share the quality of what is being distributed – healthy beautiful food is being distributed.

Break Bags Program: Suggesting to programs who participate in backpack programs that they continue to provide service to those families that are impacted by lack of access to school food programs during the various school breaks (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break, etc.). See attached presentation sheet for details.

In partnership with Kevin Glackin-Coley's Food Connection Program – EFN will be distributing 3,000 to 4,000 Break Bags for Thanksgiving break and again for Christmas break this year.

### **Food Lifeline – Amy Shipman Interim Director of Food Resources at FLL**

Just beginning to orient herself with this new group. Not a great deal to report at this time, but happy to be a part of the conversation.

### **Second Harvest – Jennifer Milnes & Owen Esperas**

Turkey drive distribution. Second Harvest is getting ready for our annual turkey drive and related distribution event at the end of November. We plan on collecting and distributing 11,000 thanksgiving dinners in Spokane County.

Produce – there are a few models that they're working on. School mobile food banks. 75% or higher. Mobile Food Bank 1,500 to 2,000 pound distribution. Identify the schools, call them and set up the distribution. 60,000 pounds of produce distributed.

### **Rotary First Harvest**

Apples, potatoes and other items are coming into season again and available. RFH is continuing donor visits and hopes to increase donations of some additional items this year.

### **Community Services of Moses Lake – Penny Archer**

Penny had to leave the call before she was able to report.

### **Clark County Food Bank – James Fitzgerald**

Continuing to get an amazing amount of produce this season, including carrots and squash that have been grown on the farm, as well as other produce donations from local farmers.

There is currently so much produce coming in from various donation streams that CCFB is considering building a system of produce deliveries with other community organizations as a way to increase capacity for distribution.

About to make some purchases of whole turkeys for the holiday season. Any leads for good pricing on turkey would be welcome.

James Scovel – is it because there is not sufficient storage for produce at the food bank level?

Agencies are not coming into the food bank as often, which creates a scheduling issue.

Mike – May have a poultry contact and will share with James after the call.

David – Noted that there are some interesting sub-distribution models that were developed by Benjamin Rasmus when he was an AmeriCorps\*VISTA working to develop pilot models for hunger distribution system solutions. [The full report is available online.](#)

### **Skagit Food Distribution Center / Community Action of Skagit County - Cole Bitzenburg**

Quick note for James Fitzgerald: Similar issues regarding distribution. Anytime a volunteer is doing a run to pickup, they make a point of trying to add in a drop or delivery to a local food bank.

Lots of food coming in from farms/gardens. September was a really big month.

Cole shared exciting news on two new USDA grants that were recently received:

The USDA has granted Community Action of Skagit County two 1 year planning grants: a USDA Community Food Project grant and a USDA Local Food Promotion Program grant. Community Action will be working with WSU Extension on Skagit Food for Skagit People – the Community Food Project planning grant to do listening sessions with low income consumers and work with food sector stakeholders to create a white paper which will serve as a plan for future efforts to increase food access. The Local Food Promotion Program grant is titled, Skagit Bounty: Prosperous Farms, Vibrant Health and will focus on working with stakeholders to create a business plan for the Skagit Food Distribution Center.

### **OIC of Washington (Yakima) – Isidra Sanchez**

In planning stage of turkey and holiday distribution. Appreciated the program EFN is doing to provide options for people.

Isidra's program is currently facing a shortage for volunteers. Any ideas? Overall recruitment issue. Agency volunteers must pass a background check – is that standard?

Julie – volunteer training is one of the 5 issues in the new food bank certification course. Some resources are available. Looking for opportunities. One of the upcoming Lunch & Learn© webinars will focus on volunteer training. One of those sessions will focus on volunteer.

### **Kittitas County - Roger Thune**

Suggestion for CCFB: Smaller food banks have limited hours, suggestion that they have some meetings to see if there might be opportunities for policy changes to get that produce out.

Mental Health – Food bank had a staff person assaulted. Will bring police chief in to train food bank staff and volunteers to teach them how to diffuse issues.

*(note: It might be worthwhile to get some of these materials from the training to share with WA Food Coalition so that it can then be broadcast to all food banks and meal programs statewide.)*

Homelessness – distributing sleeping bags, blankets, can-openers. Fresh produce is good to make available to people who don't have cooking facilities.

